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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 113701
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113701

FOR AMB BOWDLER IN VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

FOL RPT DAR ES SALAAM 1949 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAPE TOWN
GABORONE LONDON LUSAKA MAPUTO NAIROBI PRETORIA 14 MAY 77 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 1949

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK, US
SUBJ: RHODESIAN CONSULTATIONS: ROBERT MUGABE INFORMED

REF: A. STATE 107465, B. STATE 104968

1. ACCOMPANIED BY POLITICAL OFFICER DAVID HALSTED, I MET MUGABE MORNING OF MAY 14 TO DELIVER TEXT OF STATEMENT ON NEXT STAGE IN RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT (REFTEL A) AND ELABORATE WITH TALKING POINTS (REFTEL B).

2. MUGABE SAID CONSTITUTIONAL SETTLEMENT WAS A BRITISH EXERCISE IN HIS VIEW. HE DID "NOT TAKE KINDLY" TO US ROLE IN CONSTITUTIONAL NEGOTIATIONS. IN COURSE OF HOUR AND HALF
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DISCUSSION HE FUCTUATED CONSIDERABLY ON ACCEPTABLE EXTENT OF US PARTICIPATION. AT ONE EXTREME HE RULED OUT US ROLE IN ANYTHING MARGINALLY CONNECTED WITH CONSTITUTION, INCLUDING CONSULTATIONS WITH PARTIES CONCERNED. AT OTHER EXTRME HE REJECTED ONLY US PARTICIPATION IN ACTUAL DRAFTING OF CONSTITUTION. HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO US CONSULTING WITH OR ADVISING BRITISH, AS AT GENEVA.

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3. MUGABE EVINCED DEEP SUSPICIONS THAT US TRYING TO "MANIPULATE EVENTS IN ITS FAVOR." HE SAID HE COULD NOT "LEAD VALIDITY TO MANIPULATION BY US OF OUR SITUATION." PARTICIPATION IN "OUR CONFERENCE" WOULD LEND THAT VALIDITY. HE WONDERED WHY, IF IT WANTED GENUINE INDEPENDENCE FOR ZIMBABWE, US DID NOT TAKE MORE EFFECTIVE BILATERAL ACTIONS, INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR BROADENING OF SANCTIONS TO "STRANGLE" SMITH. US COULD THREATEN SOUTH AFRICA. "THIS CAN OCCUR IN OUR OPINION WITHOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN OUR CONFERENCE."

4. MUGABE REPEATEDLY RAISED FOLLOWING QUESTION: IF HE WAS TO BE CALLED ON TO ACCEPT US INVOLVEMENT ON THE BASIS OF PRESSURE IT COULD BRING TO BEAR ON SMITH IF NECESSARY, HE WOULD NEED TO KNOW THE NATURE OF THE PRESSURE IN ADVANCE. WHAT WOULD THE EXACT STEPS BE? I REPLIED THAT DECISIONS ON KINDS OF PRESSURE WOULD BE TAKEN IN LIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE TIME.

5. COMMENT: MUGABE WAS MORE ARTICULATE THAN I HAVE FOUND HIM BEFORE. EXCEPTING THE US ROLE, HE HAS EVIDENTLY DECIDED OWEN PROPOSAL IS A GOOD ONE, AS SHOWN BY HIS SEVERAL REFERENCES TO "OUR" CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, HE REMAINS DEEPLY SUSPICIONS OF US MOTIVES AND IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO REFUSE DIRECT COOPERATION WITH US ON SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS, AT LEAST UNTIL WE ARE ABLE TO CONVINCE HIM OF BENEFIT OF US PARTICIPATION. THIS COULD POSSIBLY BE BY GIVING HIM A CLEARER IDEA THAN WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO TO DATE OF HOW WE INTEND TO HELP IMPLEMENT ANY AGREEMENT THAT MAY BE NEEDED. END COMMENT.
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6. I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO CONPARE NOTES WITH BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER BROWN, WHO ALSO SAW MUGABE MORNING OF MAY 14. BROWN'S SUMMARY OF HIS CONVERSATION INDICATES MUGABE MADE ESSENTIALLY SAME POINTS AS WITH US.
SPAIN
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Subject: RHODESIAN CONSULTATIONS: ROBERT MUGABE INFORMED
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